Claims

What is claimed is:

1. In a system for distributed computing connected via the World Wide Web (Web), a system for tracking distributed computer power to users and compensating computer power providers comprising:

a computer power service broker;

means, associated with said broker, for soliciting each of a plurality of client computer stations on the Web to offer for general distribution over the Web computer power in excess to the computer power requirements of each respective client computer station;

means, associated with said broker, for soliciting a plurality of consumer stations on the Web to request the performance of functions requiring computer power;

means, associated with said broker, for distributing each of said requested functions requiring computer power among a plurality of said client computer stations offering said computer power;

means, associated with said broker, for tracking and for billing consumer stations for computer power used in performance of requested functions; and

means, associated with said broker, for tracking and compensating said client stations for said excess computer power used in performance of said requested functions.

2. The Web system for tracking distributed computer power of claim 1 further including means associated with said broker for determining the market value of computer power provided by each client station in performance of said requested functions.

3. The Web system for tracking distributed computer power of claim 2 wherein said means for compensating said client stations for said computer power pay said client stations the market value of the computer power provided.

4. The Web system for tracking distributed computer power of claim 2 wherein:

said consumer stations requesting the performance of functions requiring computer power are owned by charitable organizations; and

said means compensating said client stations for said computer power compensate said client stations by providing a Web document indicating the contribution of the market value of the computer power supplied.

5. The Web system for tracking distributed computer power of claim 2 wherein the market value of the computer power provided by each client station is determined by the amount of data processed and the type of data processing used in processing the data.

6. The Web system for tracking distributed computer power of claim 1 wherein:

each of said plurality of client stations on the Web offering computer power for distribution further includes means permitting said computer power service broker to access, via the Web, the computer power of said computer station.

7. The Web system for tracking distributed computer power of claim 6 further including means, associated with said broker, for distributing via the Web to said client stations, said means permitting said computer power service broker to access the computer power of said client stations.

8. In distributed computing via the World Wide Web (Web) connections, a method for tracking distributed computer power to users and compensating computer power providers comprising:

soliciting, through a computer power service broker, each of a plurality of client computer stations on the Web to offer for general distribution over the Web computer power in excess to the computer power requirements of each client respective computer station;

soliciting, through a computer power service broker, a plurality of consumer stations on the Web to request the performance of functions requiring computer power;

distributing, through said broker, each of said requested functions requiring computer power among a plurality of said client stations offering said computer power;

tracking and for billing, through said broker, consumer stations for computer power used in performance of requested functions; and

tracking and compensating, through said broker, said client stations for said excess computer power used in performance of said requested functions.

9. The method for tracking distributed computer power of claim 8 further including the step of determining, through said broker, the market value of computer power provided by each client station in performance of said requested functions.

10. The method for tracking distributed computer power of claim 9 wherein said step of compensating said client stations for said computer power pays said client stations the market value of the computer power provided.

11. The method for tracking distributed computer power of claim 9 wherein:

said consumer stations requesting the performance of functions requiring computer power are owned by charitable organizations; and

said step of compensating said client stations for said computer power compensates said client stations by providing a Web document indicating the contribution of the market value of the computer power supplied.

12. The method for tracking distributed computer power of claim 9 wherein the market value of the computer power provided by each client station is determined by the amount of data processed and the type of data processing used in processing the data.

13. The method for tracking distributed computer power of claim 8 wherein:

each of said plurality of client stations on the Web offering computer power for distribution further permits said computer power service broker to access, via the Web, the computer power of said client station.

14. The method for tracking distributed computer power of claim 13 further including the step of distributing through said broker via the Web to said client station, a process permitting said computer power service broker to access the computer power of said client station.

15. A computer program having program code included on a computer readable medium for tracking distributed computer power to users and compensating computer power providers in World Wide Web (Web) distributed computing comprising:

a computer power service broker;

means, associated with said broker, for soliciting each of a plurality of client computer stations on the Web to offer for general distribution over the Web computer power in excess to the computer power requirements of each respective client computer station;

means, associated with said broker, for soliciting a plurality of consumer stations on the Web to request the performance of functions requiring computer power;

means, associated with said broker, for distributing each of said requested functions requiring computer power among a plurality of said client stations offering said computer power;

means, associated with said broker, for tracking and for billing consumer stations for computer power used in performance of requested functions; and

means, associated with said broker, for tracking and compensating said client stations for said excess computer power used in performance of said requested functions.

16. The computer program for tracking distributed computer power of claim 15 further including means associated with said broker for determining the market value of computer power provided by each client station in performance of said requested functions.

17. The computer program for tracking distributed computer power of claim 16 wherein said means for compensating said client stations for said computer power pays said client stations the market value of the computer power provided.

18. The computer program for tracking distributed computer power of claim 16 wherein:

said consumer stations requesting the performance of functions requiring computer power are owned by charitable organizations; and

said means for compensating said client stations for said computer power compensate said client stations by providing a Web document indicating the contribution of the market value of the computer power supplied.

19. The computer program for tracking distributed computer power of claim 15 wherein:

each of said plurality of client stations on the Web offering computer power for distribution further includes means permitting said computer power service broker to access, via the Web, the computer power of said client station.

20. The computer program for tracking distributed computer power of claim 19 further including means, associated with said broker, for distributing via the Web to said client station, said means permitting said computer power service broker to access the computer power of said client station.